# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

CONNELL FOLEY LLP (JLO6862)
85 Livingston Avenue
Roseland, New Jersey 07068
(973) 535-0500
Attorneys for Defendant, Target Stores, a Division of Target Corporation
(improperly pleaded as Target Corporation, Target Store 1378)

JULIE SILVERMAN,	CIVIL ACTION NO	
Plaintiff,	(HONORABLE	)
V.		
TARGET CORPORATION, TARGET STORE 1378, JOHN DOES (1-5) Fictitious Names, XYZ CORPS (1-5) Fictitious Names,		
Defendants.		

#### NOTICE OF REMOVAL

# TO: THE JUDGES OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

This Notice of Removal by the defendant, Target Stores, a Division of Target Corporation (improperly pleaded as Target Corporation, Target Store 1378) ("Target"), a Minnesota corporation, with its principal offices in Minneapolis, Minnesota, through its counsel, Connell Foley LLP, in accordance with the provisions of 28 <u>U.S.C.</u> § 1446, respectfully states:

1. Target desires to exercise its right under the provisions of 28 <u>U.S.C.</u> § 1441 to remove this action from the Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division, Monmouth County, where the case is now pending under the name and style, <u>Julie Silverman v. Target Stores</u> Corporation, et al., bearing Docket No. MON-L-2971-06.

- 2. A copy of the Complaint filed by plaintiff on or about June 26, 2006, in the Superior Court of New Jersey is attached as Exhibit "A".
- 3. Target received the Summons and Complaint in this matter at the subject store on or about July 11, 2006.
- 4. A copy of Target's Answer to the Complaint, also filed separately, is attached as Exhibit "B".
- 5. This action is removable to this Court by Target pursuant to the provisions of 28 <u>U.S.C.</u> § 1441(a). Target is a Minnesota corporation with its principal place of business in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In accordance with 28 <u>U.S.C.</u> § 1448(a), "the citizenship of defendants sued under fictitious names shall be disregarded."
- 6. The above described action is one of which this Court has original jurisdiction under the provisions of 28 <u>U.S.C.</u> § 1332, in that it is a civil action wherein plaintiff will, upon information and belief, allege that damages exceed the sum or value of \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs, and is between citizens of different states.
- 7. As admitted in the Complaint, plaintiff, at the time its action was commenced, was a citizen of the State of New Jersey residing in Monmouth County.
- 8. Target, at the time this action was commenced, was and still is a corporation organized under the law of the State of Minnesota, with its principal place of business in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- 9. The within Notice of Removal is hereby filed within thirty (30) days of Target's first receipt of proper service of plaintiff's Summons and Complaint. See 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a) and (b).

WHEREFORE, defendant, Target Stores, a Division of Target Corporation, prays that the above action now pending against it in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Monmouth County, be removed to this Court pursuant to 28 <u>U.S.C.</u> § 1441(a), (b) and (c).

CONNELL FOLEY LLP
Attorneys for Defendant,
Target Stores, a Division of Target Corporation
(improperly pleaded as Target
Corporation, Target Store 1378)

By\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dated: August 10, 2006

### **LOCAL CIVIL RULE 11.2**

I, Jeffrey L. O'Hara, Esq., hereby certify pursuant to Local Civil Rule 11.2, that the above-captioned matter in controversy is not the subject of any other action pending in any court, or of any pending arbitration or administrative proceeding.

CONNELL FOLEY LLP
Attorneys for Defendant,
Target Stores, a Division of Target Corporation
(improperly pleaded as Target
Corporation, Target Store 1378)

Dated: August 10, 2006

**EXHIBIT A** 

|--|

# **CIVIL CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT**

(CIS)

Use for initial Law Division - Civil Part pleadings (not motions) under Rule 4:5-1.

FOR USE BY CLERK'S OFFICE ONLY								
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OVERPAYMENT:								
BATCHNUMBER:		, ,						

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ATTORNEY SIGNATURE							

Revised July 2001

WILLIAM P. RONNER, ESQUIRE A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION 319 MAIN STREET, P. O. BOX 275, AVON, NEW JERSEY 07717 (732) 774-7800 ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (S)

: SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

LAW DIVISION

: MONMOUTH COUNTY

Plaintiff(s),

: Docket No. MON-L-2971-06

TARGET CORPORATION,

JULIE SILVERMAN,

w.

: Civil Action

TARGET STORE 1378, GUYS' LIQUOR STORE, JOHN DOES (1-5) FICTITOUS NAMES XYZ CORPS (1-5) FICTITIOUS NAMES

SUMMONS

Defendant(s)

THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT(S):

#### TARGET CORPORATION

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED in a Civil Action in the Superior Court of New Jersey, instituted by the above named plaintiff(s), and required to serve upon the attorney(s) for the plaintiff(s) whose name and office address appears above, and answer to the annexed complaint within 35 days after the appears above, and answer to the annexed complaint within 35 days after the service of the summons and complaint upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to answer, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You shall promptly file your answer and proof of service thereof with the Clerk of the Superior Court, at P.O. Box 1252, MONMOUTH COUNTY COURTHOUSE, FREEHOLD, NEW TRACES. 07728, in accordance with the rules of civil practice and JERSEY procedure.

If you cannot afford to pay for an attorney, call a Legal Service Office. An individual not eligible for free legal assistance may obtain a referral to an attorney by calling the county lawyer referral service. These numbers may be listed in the yellow pages of your phone book or may be obtained by calling the New Jersey State Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service toll free 1-800-792-8315 (within New Jersey) or (609) 394-1101 (from out of state). The phone numbers for the county in which this accion is pending are: Lawyer Referral Service (732) 431-5544, Legal Services Office (732) 776-7733.

Dated: July 6, 2006

15/ purch F. Phila OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

Name of defendant to be served: TARGET CORPORATION Address for service : SEAVIEW SQUARE MALL, ROUTE 66, OCEAN, NEW JERSEY 07712

Kepse & 480379E

WILLIAM P. RONNER, ESQUIRE A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION 319 MAIN STREET, P. O. BOX 275, AVON, NEW JERSEY 07717 (732) 774-7800 ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF(S) RECEIVED ON

JUL 1 4 2006

FORWARDED TO DP

JULIE SILVERMAN,

v.

: SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

LAW DIVISION : MONMOUTH COUNTY

: Civil Action

Plaintiff(s),

: Docket No. MON-L-2971-06

TARGET CORPORATION, TARGET STORE 1378,

GUYS' LIQUOR STORE

JOHN DOES (1-5) FICTITOUS NAMES

XYZ CORPS (1-5) FICTITIOUS NAMES

SUMMONS

Defendant(s)

THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT (S):

#### TARGET STORE 1378

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED in a Civil Action in the Superior Court of New Jersey, instituted by the above named plaintiff(s), and required to serve upon the attorney(s) for the plaintiff(s) whose name and office address appears above, and answer to the annexed complaint within 35 days after the service of the summons and complaint upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to answer, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You shall promptly against your answer and proof of service thereof with the Clerk of the file your answer and proof of service thereof with the Clerk of the Superior Court, at P.O. Box 1252, MONMOUTH COUNTY COURTHOUSE, FREEHOLD, NEW 07728, in accordance with the rules of civil practice and JERSEY procedure.

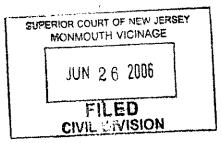
If you cannot afford to pay for an attorney, call a Legal Service Office. An individual not eligible for free legal assistance may obtain a referral to an attorney by calling the county lawyer referral service. These numbers may be listed in the yellow pages of your phone book or may be obtained by calling the New Jersey State Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service toll free 1-800-792-8315 (within New Jersey) or (609) 394-1101 (from out of state). The phone numbers for the county in which this action is pending are: Lawyer Referral Service (732) 431-5544, Legal Services Office (732) 776-7733.

Dated: July 6, 2006

DONALD F. PHELAN, CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

Name of defendant to be served: TARGET STORE 1378 Address for service : SEAVIEW SQUARE MALL, ROUTE 66, OCEAN, NEW JERSEY 07712

WILLIAM P. RONNER, ESQ. A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION 319 MAIN STREET P.O. BOX 275 AVON, NEW JERSEY 07717 (732) 774-7800 ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF(S)



JULIE SILVERMAN,

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY LAW DIVISION

MONMOUTH COUNTY

Plaintiff(s)

DOCKET NO.: L-2971-06

v.

: Civil Action

TARGET CORPORATION, TARGET STORE 1378, JOHN DOES (1-5) Fictitious Names, XYZ CORPS (1-5) Fictitious Names,

COMPLAINT, DEMAND FOR ANSWERS TO INTERROGATORIES, DEMAND FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS, DEMAND FOR INSURANCE COVERAGE, DEMAND FOR CLIENT'S STATEMENTS, JURY

DEMAND, TRIAL COUNSEL DESIGNATION

Defendants,

Plaintiff, Julie Silverman, residing at 705 Greens Avenue, City of Long Branch, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, by way of Complaint, says:

#### FIRST COUNT

- 1. On or about July 2, 2004 plaintiff, Julie Silverman, was a business invitee on the property owned and/or operated and/or leased and/or constructed and/or maintained by the defendants, Target Corporation, located at 2331 State Route 66 in the Township  $\alpha f$ Ocean, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey.
- 2. On or about July 2, 2004 plaintiff, Julie Silverman, was a business invitee on the property owned and/or operated and/or leased and/or constructed and/or maintained by the defendants Target Store 1378, located at 2331 State Route 66 in the Township of Ocean County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey.

- 3. At all times mentioned hereinafter, defendants John Does 1 to 5 and XYZ Corporations 1 to 5 owned and/or operated and/or leased and/or constructed the property located at 2331 State Route 66 in the Township of Ocean, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey.
- 4. At said time and place, plaintiff, Julie Silverman, was on the property of said defendants, and was caused to fall due to the negligence of the defendants and/or their agents, servants, representatives and employees.
  - 5. Defendants were negligent in that they:
    - a. Did not keep the premises in a safe condition;
    - b. Did not exercise the proper care;
    - c. Caused a dangerous and hazardous condition to exist;
    - d. Allowed a nuisance to exist;
    - e. Failed to provide proper safeguard and/or warnings on their property;
    - f. Failed to provide proper, safe and clear access for persons allowed and invited to use the property;
    - g. And were otherwise negligent in the premises.
  - 6. As a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid negligence of the defendants, the plaintiff, Julie Silverman has sustained bodily injuries resulting in a permanent. Further, plaintiff has incurred and in the future will incur expenses for the treatment of said injuries, has been disabled and in the future will be disabled and unable to perform usual functions, has been caused and in the future will be caused great pain and suffering, to great loss and damage.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, demands judgment against the defendants for damages and costs of suit.

## JURY DEMAND

The Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

- 3. At all times mentioned hereinafter, defendants John Does 1 to 5 and XYZ Corporations 1 to 5 owned and/or operated and/or leased and/or constructed the property located at 2331 State Route 66 in the Township of Ocean, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey.
- 4. At said time and place, plaintiff, Julie Silverman, was on the property of said defendants, and was caused to fall due to the negligence of the defendants and/or their agents, servants, representatives and employees.
  - 5. Defendants were negligent in that they:
    - a. Did not keep the premises in a safe condition;
    - b. Did not exercise the proper care;
    - c. Caused a dangerous and hazardous condition to exist;
    - d. Allowed a nuisance to exist;
    - e. Failed to provide proper safeguard and/or warnings on their property;
    - f. Failed to provide proper, safe and clear access for persons allowed and invited to use the property;
    - g. And were otherwise negligent in the premises.
  - 6. As a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid negligence of the defendants, the plaintiff, Julie Silverman has sustained bodily injuries resulting in a permanent. Further, plaintiff has incurred and in the future will incur expenses for the treatment of said injuries, has been disabled and in the future will be disabled and unable to perform usual functions, has been caused and in the future will be caused great pain and suffering, to great loss and damage.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, demands judgment against the defendants for damages and costs of suit.

### JURY DEMAND

The Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

**EXHIBIT B** 

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TI	ne JS44 Civil cover	sheet and th	e information contained herein	neither replace nor s

d herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law except as provided by local rules of the United States in September 1974 is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE court. This form approved by the Judicial Conference of INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM)

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# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

CONNELL FOLEY LLP (JLO6862)
85 Livingston Avenue
Roseland, New Jersey 07068
(973) 535-0500
Attorneys for Defendant, Target Stores, a Division of Target Corporation
(improperly pleaded as Target Corporation, Target Store 1378)

JULIE SILVERMAN,

CIVIL ACTION NO. L-2971-06

Plaintiff,

٧.

TARGET CORPORATION, TARGET STORE 1378, JOHN DOES (1-5) Fictitious Names, XYZ CORPS (1-5) Fictitious Names,

Defendants.

ANSWER TO COMPLAINT, SEPARATE DEFENSES, REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF DAMAGES, JURY DEMAND, DESIGNATION OF TRIAL COUNSEL AND CERTIFICATION

Defendant, Target Stores, a Division of Target Corporation, ("Target"), (improperly pleaded as Target Corporation, Target Store 1378), by way of Answer to the allegations set forth in Plaintiff's Complaint hereby says:

#### FIRST COUNT

- 1. Target lacks sufficient knowledge as to the allegations set forth in Paragraph 1 of the First Count of the Complaint on which to form a basis to admit or deny those allegations and therefore no response is interposed thereto. Target admits it owns the building but leases the land on which Target Store No. T1378 is located in Ocean Township, New Jersey from Starwood Heller Searview LLC.
- 2. Target lacks sufficient knowledge as to the allegations set forth in Paragraph 2 of the First Count of the Complaint on which to form a basis to admit or deny those allegations and therefore no response is interposed thereto. Target admits it owns the building but leases the

land on which Target Store No. T1378 is located in Ocean Township, New Jersey from Starwood Heller Searview LLC.

- 3. The allegations of Paragraph 3 of the First Count of the Complaint do not apply to Target but to the extent that they are deemed to apply they are denied.
- 4. Target denies the allegations set forth in Paragraph 4 of the First Count of the Complaint.
- 5. Target denies the allegations set forth in Paragraph 5 of the First Count of the Complaint.
- 6. Target denies the allegations set forth in Paragraph 6 of the First Count of the Complaint.

#### FIRST SEPARATE DEFENSE

Upon information and belief, plaintiff's Complaint fails to state a cause of action against Target upon which relief may be granted.

## SECOND SEPARATE DEFENSE

Upon information and belief, plaintiff's Complaint fails to set forth any facts which are sufficient to support a claim of negligence as to Target.

## THIRD SEPARATE DEFENSE

Upon information and belief, the injuries about which plaintiff complains were not proximately caused by any authorized actions by Target and/or its employees, agents, servants or representatives.

### FOURTH SEPARATE DEFENSE

Upon information and belief, plaintiff's right to recover damages is either barred or diminished by plaintiff's actions under the doctrine of comparative negligence.

#### FIFTH SEPARATE DEFENSE

Upon information and belief, plaintiff's injuries were caused by third parties over whom Target had no control.

#### SIXTH SEPARATE DEFENSE

Upon information and belief, Target breached no duty owed or owing to plaintiff at all relevant times.

# RESERVATION OF COUNTERCLAIM UNDER N.J.S.A. 2A:15-59.1 AND/OR R. 11

Target hereby asserts that an award of counsel fees and costs may be sought at the appropriate time due to the frivolous nature of this action.

## REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF DAMAGES

Kindly provide the undersigned, within five days after service of this demand, with a written statement of the amount of damages claimed in this action.

## JURY DEMAND

Target hereby demands a trial by jury.

## DESIGNATION OF TRIAL COUNSEL

Pursuant to the Rules of Court, Target hereby designates Jeffrey L. O'Hara and Connell Foley LLP as trial counsel in this matter.

### **LOCAL CIVIL RULE 11.2**

I, Jeffrey L. O'Hara, hereby certify pursuant to Local Civil Rule 11.2, that the above-captioned matter in controversy is not the subject of any other action pending in any court, or of any pending arbitration or administrative proceeding.

CONNELL FOLEY LLP

By:

Jeffrey (L) O'Ha

Attorneys for Defendant, Target Stores, a Division of Target Corporation

Dated: August 10, 2006

1744805-01 -4-